

**REMARKS**

The claims have been amended to place the application fully in condition for allowance.

Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate all the limitations of claim 4, including limitations contained in intermediate claims from which claim 4 depends.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 as-amended is allowable in view of the examiner's indication that claim 4 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

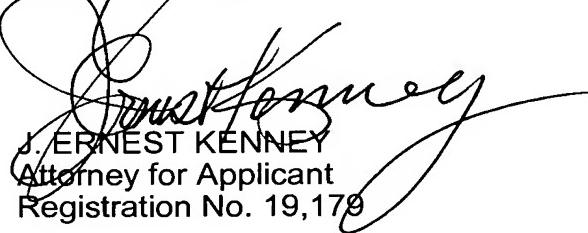
Claims 5, 6 and 8 have been amended so that they depend from amended claim 1, and claims 9, 10 and 11 have been canceled.

Claims 12-21 were indicated as allowed in the Office Action.

Claim 22 has been amended so that it depends from claim 21, thereby obviating the examiner's objection that the claim is dependent on itself.

In view of the amendments and comments contained herein, it is respectfully submitted that the application is fully in condition for allowance and its passage to issue is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,  
**BACON & THOMAS, PLLC**

  
J. ERNEST KENNEY  
Attorney for Applicant  
Registration No. 19,176

BACON & THOMAS, PLLC  
Customer 23364 625 Slaters Lane - 4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Alexandria, VA 22314-1176  
Telephone: (703) 683-0500  
Facsimile: (703) 683-1080

Date: July 3, 2006